



de maximis, inc.

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March 16, 2009

VIA ELECTRONIC & US MAIL

Ms. Alice Yeh
ATTN: Lower Passaic River Remedial Project Manager
Emergency and Remedial Response Division
U.S. EPA, Region 2
290 Broadway, 19th Floor
New York, New York 10007

**Re: Monthly Progress Report No. 22 – February 2009
Lower Passaic River Study Area (LPRSA) Remedial Investigation/
Feasibility Study (RI/FS)
CERCLA Docket No. 02-2007-2009**

Dear Ms. Yeh:

de maximis, inc. is submitting this Monthly Progress Report for the above-captioned project on the behalf of the RI/FS Agreement Settling Parties (Cooperative Parties Group or CPG) pursuant to the Administrative Settlement Agreement and Order on Consent (Settlement Agreement or AOC). The Progress Report satisfies the reporting requirements of Paragraph 42 of said Settlement Agreement.

(a) Actions which have been taken to comply with this Settlement Agreement during the previous month.

Meetings/Conference Calls

- On February 12, CPG had a Modeling Progress call with EPA and HydroQual.
- On February 18, CPG and EPA had a conference call to discuss approaches to conducting a post-storm bathymetric survey.
- On February 26, CPG and EPA conducted a modeling planning meeting.

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Correspondence

- On February 13, CPG submitted the January monthly progress report to EPA.
- On February 13, EPA notified CPG of the availability of the NJDEP final report of the CSO/SWO sampling conducted for CARP.
- On February 26, CPG sent a memorandum to the EPA regarding Fish/Decapod (Crab/Crayfish) Tissue Sampling Design Concepts.

Work

- Data validation and evaluation of Low Resolution Coring (LRC) sediment data continued. As of February 27, 2009 >90% of data has been received and >50% has been validated.
- Planning for Post-storm Bathymetric Survey and development of conceptual approach and QAPP addendum continued.
- Revisions to the Draft Feasibility Study Work Plan were completed.
- Drafting of the Physical Water Column Monitoring QAPP continued.
- Revisions to the RI/FS schedule were initiated based on comments received from the EPA on January 30, as well as information gathered during meetings with the EPA related to the completion of FSP2 and the modeling work plan.
- Preparation of Field Sampling Plan Volume 2 (FSP2) Fish Tissue and Benthic Sampling QAPPs, including tissue sample design memorandum (Fish/Decapod (Crab/Crayfish) Tissue Sampling Design Concepts) continued.

(b) Results of Sampling and Tests

- Sampling data from January was provided to EPA in conjunction with the January monthly progress report. In addition, a Region 2 MEDD submittal of data validated in January 2008 was uploaded to the PREmis web portal.
- PDFs of the lab data packages and copies of lab EDD files that were received in February 2009 are being provided to EPA under separate cover. A Region 2 MEDD submittal of data validated in February 2009 will be provided as an upload to the PREmis web portal.

(c) Work planned for the next two months with schedules relating to the overall project schedule for RI/FS completion

- Completion of LRC data validation and evaluation. Submittal of validated data set to EPA.

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- Initiate preparation of the LRC Site Characterization Report.
- Finalize revisions to the RI/FS schedule.
- Respond to EPA comments on draft Problem Formulation Document (PFD) and submit revised PFD to EPA.
- Meet with EPA to discuss planning for Creel/Angler Survey and Human Exposure Survey.
- Complete preparation of FSP2 QAPPs for biota sampling.
- Initiate the preparation of the Preliminary Identification of Candidate Technologies (PICT) Memo.

(d) Problems encountered and anticipated problems, actual or anticipated delays, and solutions developed and implemented to address actual or anticipated problems or delays.

The CPG Modeling Team has not yet received the sediment transport numerical model from EPA. Further delay of the receipt of this model will affect the schedule of the CPG modeling activities, as well as the potential completion date of the RI/FS.

If you have any questions, please contact me or Rob Law at (908) 735-9315.

Very truly yours,

de maximis, inc.


Willard F. Potter
Project Coordinator

cc: Sarah Flanagan, EPA Office of Regional Counsel
William Hyatt, CPG Coordinating Counsel
Lisa Baron, USACE
Tim Kubiak, USFWS
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